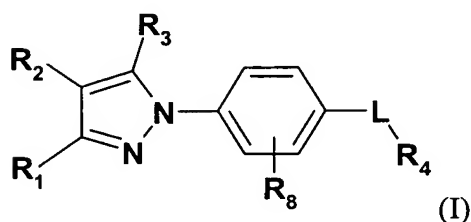


LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating a condition caused by endothelial dysfunction chosen from insulin resistance syndrome, hypertension, angina, ischemia, ischemic stroke, renal disease and Raynaud's disease, said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



wherein:

R₁ and **R₃** are the same or different and each is CF₃, halogen, CN, C₁₋₈ alkyl or branched alkyl, C₂₋₈ alkenyl or C₃₋₈ branched alkenyl, C₂₋₈ alkynyl or C₃₋₈ branched alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl optionally substituted with OH, CN or methoxy, C₁₋₈ alkyloxy, C₁₋₄ alkyloxyC₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₈ alkylthio, C₁₋₄ alkylthioC₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₈ dialkylamino, C₁₋₄ dialkylaminoalkyl, CO₂R₅ where **R₅** is C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₂₋₄ alkenyl optionally substituted with carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, aryl or **R₁** and **R₃** are is heterocyclyl connected to the pyrazole in any position that makes a stable bond optionally substituted with halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, CN, (CH₃)₂N, CO₂CH₃, alkyloxy, aryl, heterocyclyl or **R₅**;

R₂ is H, halogen or methyl;

L is -NHC(O)-, -NHC(O)O-, or -NHC(O)C(O)-, ~~NHC(S)-, NH-, NHC(O)NH-, NHC(S)NH-, NHCH₂-, NHCH(R₆)-,~~ where **R₆** is H, CN or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R₄ is C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₁₋₈ alkyloxy, C₁₋₈ alkylthio, C₁₋₈ alkylamino, C₁₋₄ alkyloxyalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthioalkyl, C₁₋₄alkylaminoalkyl, C₁₋₄dialkylaminoalkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl each optionally substituted with one or more halogen, -CN, -NO₂, SO₂NH₂ alkylthio,

alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or **R**₇ where **R**₇ is phenyl, heterocyclyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₁₋₆ alkyloxyalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyloxy, C₁₋₅ alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylthioalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinylalkyl or C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonylalkyl, each **R**₇ in turn is optionally substituted with halogen, OH, alkyloxy, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)₂, dialkylamino, phenyl or heterocyclyl;

R₈ is H;

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that when **R**₃ is alkyl or CF₃ and **R**₄ is pyridyl, then the pyridyl is substituted except that the substituents on the pyridyl cannot be halogen;
and with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded: *N*-[4-(5-ethyl-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-nicotinamide; *N*-[4-(5-Ethyl-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-1-methylindole-2-carboxamide; 4-(3-Cyanopropoxy)-*N*-[4-(5-cyano-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]benzamide; and *N*-[4-(5-cyano-3-pyridin-3-yl-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-4-(3-[1,3]dioxolan-2-yl-propoxy)benzamide.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 and wherein:

in formula (I):

R₁ is C₁₋₈ alkyl or branched alkyl, C₃₋₈ alkenyl or branched alkenyl, C₃₋₈ alkynyl or branched alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyloxyC₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₅ alkyloxy, C₁₋₃ alkylthioC₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₅ alkylthio, CF₃, heterocyclyl selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, pyridyl, furanyl or thiazolyl or aryl optionally substituted with halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, CN, alkyloxy or (CH₃)₂N;

R₂ is H;

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R₃ is halogen, methyl, ethyl, CF₃, CN, cyclopropyl, vinyl, SCH₃, methoxy, ~~heterocyclyl~~
~~selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, pyridyl, furanyl or thiazolyl~~ or aryl optionally
substituted with halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, CN, methoxy or (CH₃)₂N;

L is -NHC(O)-, ~~NH~~, ~~NHCH₂~~, ~~NHC(O)NH~~, and

R₄ is C₁₋₆ alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl selected from pyridyl, pyrimidinyl,
pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl,
thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl,
quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzoxazolyl,
benzisoxazolyl, benzpyrazolyl, benzothiofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, quinazolinyl and
indazolyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen, -CN, alkylthio,
alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, -NO₂, SO₂NH₂ or **R₇** where **R₇** is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₁₋₆
alkyloxyalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyloxy, C₁₋₅ alkylamino, or C₁₋₆ alkylthioalkyl each optionally
substituted with OH, CN, -COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)₂,
dialkylamino, phenyl or heterocyclyl as hereinabove described in this paragraph.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2 and wherein:

in the formula (I)

R₁ is ethyl, isopropyl, *n*-propyl, *t*-butyl, cyclopentyl, CF₃, ethoxy, CH₃OCH₂-, 2- or 3-
tetrahydrofuranyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2-furanyl, or 2-thiazolyl;

R₃ is CN, CF₃, Cl, methyl, ethyl, SCH₃, cyclopropyl, or vinyl ~~or 2-furanyl~~;

L is ~~NHC(O)-~~,
and

R₄ is a phenyl or pyridyl each optionally substituted with one to three halogen, -CN, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or **R₇** where **R₇** is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₁₋₆ alkyloxyC₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyloxy, C₁₋₅ alkylamino each optionally substituted with halogen, OH, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)₂, dialkylamino, phenyl, morpholinyl or pyridyl.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3 and wherein:

in the formula (I)

R₁ is isopropyl, CF₃, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl;

R₂ is H;

R₃ is CN, CF₃, Cl, methyl, SCH₃ or ethyl;

and

R₄ is a phenyl or pyridyl each optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from halogen, -CN, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl or **R₇** where **R₇** is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyloxy, C₁₋₅ alkylamino each optionally substituted with OH, CN, COO-lower alkyl, -CONH-lower alkyl, -CON(lower alkyl)₂, dialkylamino, phenyl, morpholinyl or pyridyl.

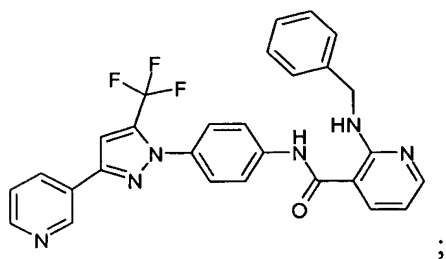
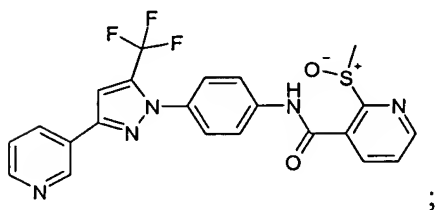
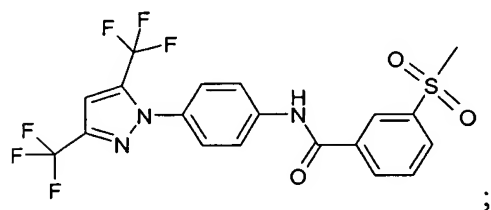
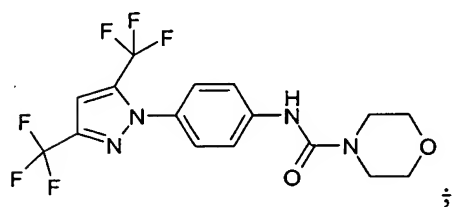
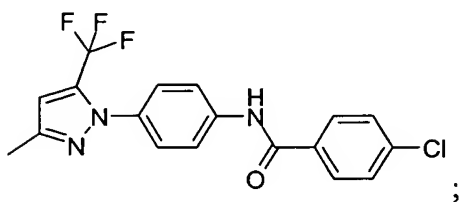
Claims 5-6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 ~~or 5~~ wherein the condition is hypertension.

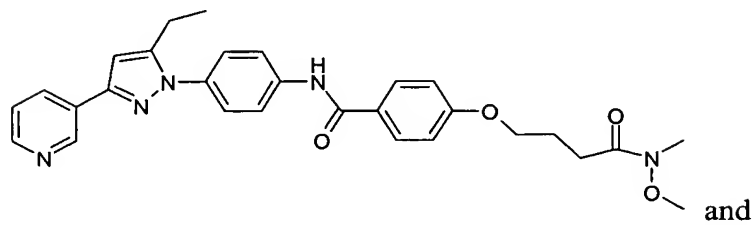
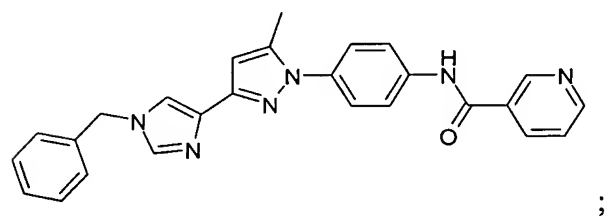
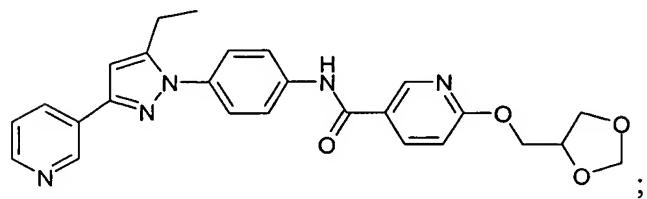
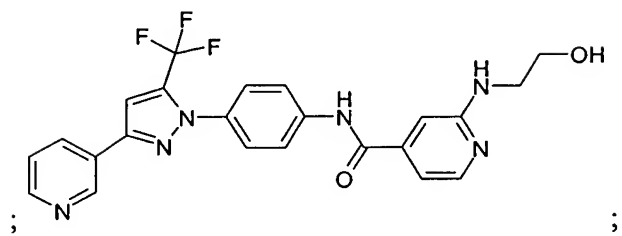
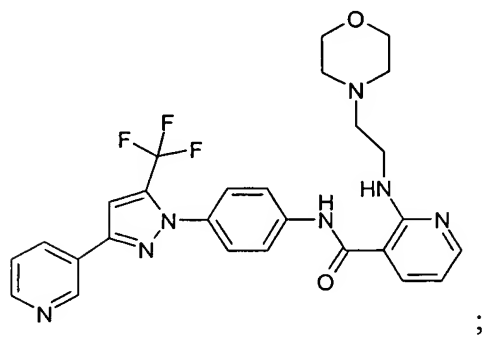
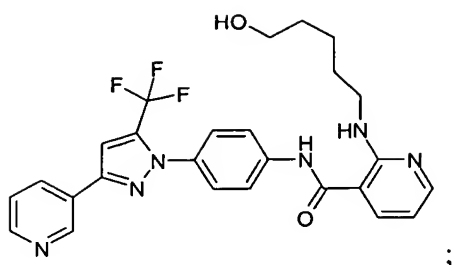
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Claims 8-9 (cancelled).

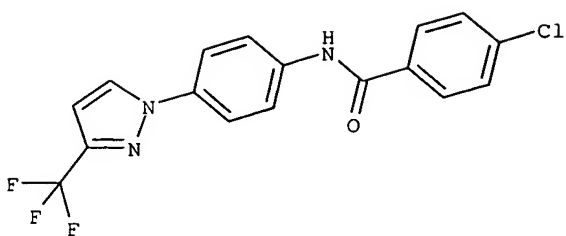
Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is chosen from:



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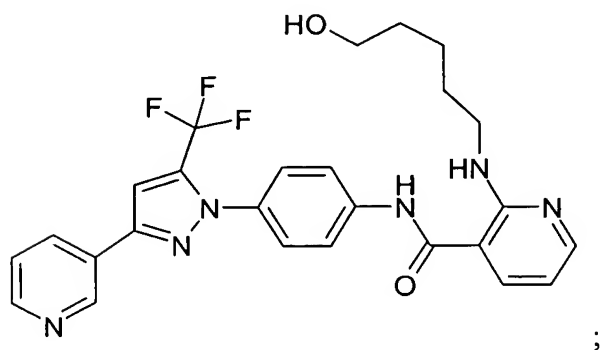
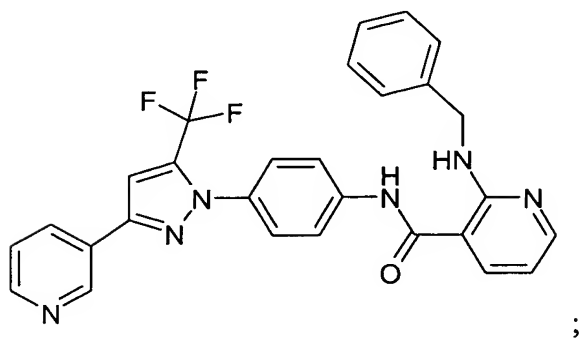
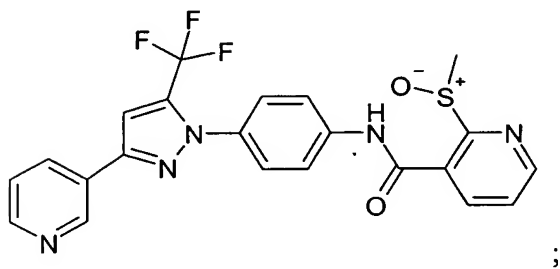


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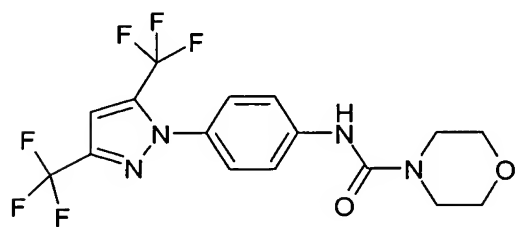
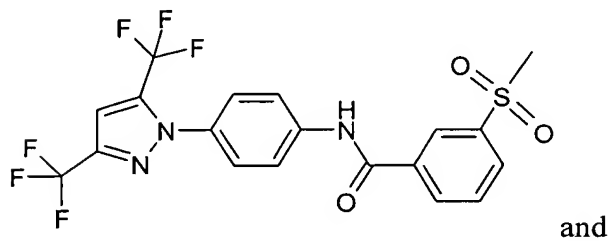
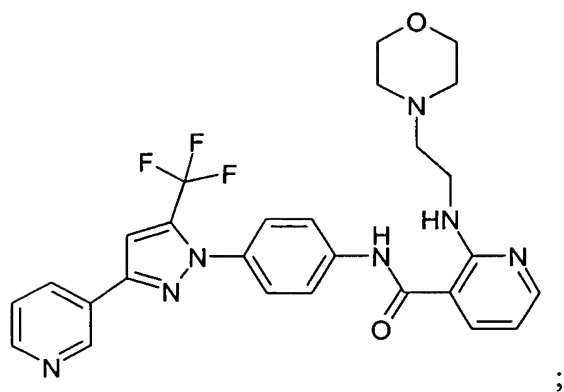


or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claims 1 or 7 wherein the compound is chosen from



Response



or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.